

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 153144 TOSEC 070071
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
INFO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 153144 TOSEC 070071

EXDIS, CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PROG, SF, WA, ZA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: APPROACH TO ZAMBIA ON POSSIBILITY OF
SWAPO/SADF CLASH ALONG CAPRIVI STRIP

REF: SECTO 27020

1. CONTACT GROUP IN NEW YORK IS AT PRESENT PREPARING A
JOINT PRESENTATION TO SAG AND ZAMBIA REGARDING SITUATION
ALONG CAPRIVI STRIP. OUR CONCERN IS SUCH, HOWEVER, THAT WE
BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT THAT U.S. VIEWS BE MADE KNOWN PROMPTLY.
ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD INFORM CG COLLEAGUES OF THEIR
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DEMARCHES AND STATE THAT THEY WILL ALSO BE PREPARED SUBSE-
QUENTLY TO JOIN IN GROUP EFFORT. EMBASSY LUSAKA SHOULD AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE APPROACH ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT AT AN APPROPRI-
ATE LEVEL AND MAKE POINTS IN PARA TWO. EMBASSY CAPE TOWN
SHOULD MAKE POINTS IN PARA THREE TO THE SAG.

2. TALKING POINTS FOR LUSAKA:

-- WE ARE CONCERNED BY THE REPORTS WE HAVE HEARD FROM YOUR GOVERNMENT OF A SOUTH AFRICAN MILITARY BUILD-UP IN THE CAPRIVI STRIP AREA OF NAMIBIA AND OF THE INCREASED TENSIONS THAT HAVE RESULTED; WE WOULD BE DEEPLY CONCERNED AT ANY VIOLATION OF ZAMBIA'S TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

-- WITH THE EFFORTS OF THE WESTERN FIVE AND THE FRONT LINE TO BRING ABOUT A SETTLEMENT IN NAMIBIA NOW AT A MOST DELICATE STAGE, IT IS CLEAR THAT ANY MILITARY CLASH OR CONFRONTATION, INTENTIONAL OR OTHERWISE, COULD HAVE GRAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR OUR SHARED HOPE OF A PROMPT AND PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THIS LONGSTANDING INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM.

-- WE CONSIDER THIS A MOST SERIOUS SITUATION. ACCORDINGLY, WE ARE RAISING WITH THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT THE NEED TO EXERCISE THE UTMOST RESTRAINT AND TO REFRAIN FROM TAKING ANY ACTION WHICH WOULD NEGATE THE CLIMATE OF PEACE ENGENDERED BY THE RECENT FRONT LINE MEETING IN LUANDA. PARENTHETICALLY, WE WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAS EXPRESSED TO US THEIR CONCERN AT THE PROSPECT OF A RAID BY SWAPO.

-- WE WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST YOUR GOVERNMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN USING ITS INFLUENCE WITH SWAPO TO HELP ENSURE THAT SWAPO TAKES NO ACTION IN COMING DAYS WHICH MIGHT ENDANGER THE PROSPECTS FOR DISCUSSION IN THE NEAR FUTURE OR WHICH MIGHT BE USED BY THE SOUTH AFRICANS AS AN EXCUSE FOR MILITARY

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ACTION;

-- WE WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE ZAMBIA'S HELP IN THIS MATTER. WE MUST NOT ALLOW THE CHANCE FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN NAMIBIA TO BE LOST BECAUSE OF AN UNEXPECTED OR ILL-ADVISED ACTION BY ANY PARTY.

3. TALKING POINTS FOR CAPE TOWN:

-- AS YOU HAVE DOUBTLESS NOTED FROM PRESS REPORTS, OUR REPRESENTATIVES IN LUSAKA WERE SUMMONED YESTERDAY TO THE ZAMBIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WHERE FOREIGN MINISTER MWALE ADVISED THEM THAT ZAMBIA HAD INFORMATION THAT SOUTH AFRICA WAS MASSING TROOPS AND EQUIPMENT IN THE CAPRIVI STRIP AREA IN PREPARATION FOR AN ATTACK ON ZAMBIA. MR. MWALE ASKED THAT OUR GOVERNMENTS TAKE STEPS TO PREVENT SUCH AN ATTACK. MR. MWALE SUBSEQUENTLY MADE A PRESS STATEMENT ON THIS MATTER WHICH LARGELY REPEATED THE POINTS HE HAD EARLIER MADE TO OUR REPRESENTATIVES.

-- WE SUBSEQUENTLY NOTED A NEWS DISPATCH FROM PRETORIA WHICH QUOTED A SPOKESMAN OF YOUR MINISTRY OF DEFENSE TO THE

EFFECT THAT SOUTH AFRICA HAD NO INTENTION OF ATTACKING ANY OF ITS NEIGHBORS. WE WERE ENCOURAGED BY THIS STATEMENT. WE WERE CONCERNED, HOWEVER, BY THE IMPLICATION IN THE STATEMENT THAT AN ATTACK ON GUERRILLA BASES IN A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY WOULD NOT CONSTITUTE THE USE OF FORCE AGAINST THAT COUNTRY ITSELF. WE DO NOT CONSIDER THIS TO BE A VALID DISTINCTION, AND WE WOULD REITERATE OUR EARLIER APPEALS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA REFRAIN FROM ANY ACTION WHICH WOULD INTERFERE WITH THE VERY DELICATE NEGOTIATION IN WHICH THE CONTACT GROUP IS CURRENTLY INVOLVED. AN ATTACK BY SOUTH AFRICA ON SWAPO FORCES IN ZAMBIA COULD VERY WELL CREATE INSURMOUNTABLE OBSTACLES TO OUR EFFORTS AND WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF PLACING THE ONUS ON SOUTH AFRICA FOR THE FAILURE OF OUR NAMIBIAN INITIATIVE.

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-- WE ARE ALSO APPROACHING THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAMBIA ON THIS MATTER WITH REGARD TO SWAPO.

CHRISTOPHER

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